

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V

DATE: NOV 25 1981

SUBJECT: Trip Report on meeting held in Minneapolis, MN, Regarding the Status and Direction of Work for the Reilly Tar & Chemical Site Cleanup in St. Louis Park, MN

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US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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TO: Participants: Richard Ferguson - MPCA, Michael Convery - MDH,
Mark Hult - USGS, James Pankanin - USEPA

Date of Meeting: November 12 and 13, 1981

Purpose: To discuss future priorities necessary to plan remedial action for Reilly Tar site.

Discussion:

The first day was primarily spent with staff from the State of Minnesota Attorney General's Office, coding information pertinent to the Reilly Tar case. Also, Roy Ball, David Arndorfer, and Jim Dougherty of Weston Engineering were introduced to Richard Ferguson of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Michael Convery of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). I discussed the role of Weston Engineering and the interface of the Environmental Assessment with studies currently underway at the site. We also discussed our respective evaluations of the draft report on the Study of Ground Water Contamination in Saint Louis Park, Minnesota, conducted by Eugene A. Hickok and Associates.

The second day, November 13, was spent at a meeting with the participants discussing the integration of future soil and ground water studies in the overall development of treatment alternatives for the St. Louis Park area. The outcome of our discussions which requires further action is presented below.

Action:

1. USEPA, Weston and USGS will present their comments, as soon as possible, regarding the Hickok final report on the treatment of ground water contaminants in St. Louis Park. This report was funded by the State of Minnesota. The comments will pertain to the applicability of the report in future funding decisions regarding treatment alternatives. I will request the review of the Hickok final report by USGS through procedures prescribed in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by both the USEPA and USGS. All comments will be sent to Richard Ferguson of the MPCA with copies to all participants.
2. Agreement was reached that soil investigation, having been a lesser priority than ground water investigation, should be continued more thoroughly to better determine: feasible soil treatment alternatives and costs; relationship between implementation of a gradient control well (and possible water treatment) system and sorption or desorption of contaminants currently stored in the drift; and, in general, specify the areal contamination of soils and their hydraulic characteristics.

I will assess the availability and support services of the Field Investigation Team (FIT) and Radian Corporation to determine their potential role in this effort. This effort should be completed in conjunction with the revised schedule for completion of Task III of the USEPA/MPCA Cooperative Agreement. The revised schedule for Task III will be submitted by MDH to USEPA, upon completion of the Request For Proposals for Task III, being written by the MDH.

3. USGS, (Mark Hult) is preparing tasks for immediate and future studies for soils and data correlation for ground water. Soil and ground water interaction relative to pollutant transport to the Prairie du Chien aquifer will also be considered. These tasks will be analyzed by the MPCA, MDH and EPA to assess their value for input to the design, operation and maintenance of any remedial action taken at St. Louis Park and funded by EPA.
4. Before implementation of any alternative can commence, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements must be fulfilled for a comprehensive plan to treat the soil and ground water contamination at the old Reilly Tar and Chemical Company site in St. Louis Park.

A separate potential issue is the phased construction of a treatment system. Construction of treatment alternatives for soils and ground water may be phased as long as EPA can determine that implementation of a phased approach to treatment alternatives, e.g., construction of ground water treatment facilities at a date substantially earlier than construction of a treatment facility for soils or contaminants within the saturated soil strata, is an environmentally sound decision that would not adversely affect the design, operation and maintenance of the total treatment project.

5. The MPCA and MDH representatives agreed that the priorities for treatment and/or disposal of ground water from the Prairie du Chien - Jordan aquifer will be firmly established before a recommendation is made relative to the use of the pumped water. Due to costs of, and technological limitations on, Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) treatment, other sources of drinking water may need to be thoroughly considered. We agreed that groundwater studies for ultimate treatment or disposal would remain the first priority.
6. Task 3 work elements and attendant funds committed under the USEPA/MPCA Cooperative Agreement will be assigned to priorities established by the participants and the MPCA will proceed to publish requests for proposals (RFP) to accomplish the following: (A) Broad but relevant spectrum of bench testing for the treatability of PAH found in the ground water in St. Louis Park, MN. and, (B) Provisions in the RFP for a pilot plant study of (A), above, provided that the MPCA and EPA agree, after a review of (A), on the efficacy of a pilot plant study. Due to the acknowledgement and consensus that granular activated carbon appears limited in treating, to drinking water quality, the dilute PAH concentrations found in the ground water at St. Louis Park, funds for plans and specification for a carbon adsorption treatment facility will not be committed at this time.

The funds will be committed at a later date if treatment is found to be feasible or will be used to complete other immediate and critical tasks which are currently being developed by the participants. The development of these tasks will be completed by December 16, 1981 and submitted as part of the revised work plan for Task III under the USEPA/MPCA Cooperative Agreement.

cc: Paul Nadeau, WH-548-E
Lucy Sibold, WH-548-E
Steven Shakman, MPCA, AG
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